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Twenty-seventh special session
Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole
Agenda items 8 and 9

Review of the achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s

Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Ms. Lidija Topic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Chapter I
Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its twenty-seventh special session, on 8 May 2002, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-seventh special session and decided that the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee for the special session would serve as the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole.

2. The Ad Hoc Committee held two meetings, on 8 and 9 May 2002, to hear representatives of delegations, of United Nations programmes and other entities in the United Nations system and of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and to consider the draft outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session.

3. In connection with its consideration of agenda item 5, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it the reports of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children (A/S-27/2 and Add.1 (Part I and Part II and Corr.1)).

4. At its 1st meeting, on 8 May 2002, the representatives of Pakistan, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Indonesia made statements.

5. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

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(UNIDO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

6. Statements were also made by representatives of World Vision International, Gurises Unidos and ECPAT International.

7. The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) made a statement at the same meeting.

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 May, statements were made by representatives of Liechtenstein, Austria, the Philippines, Uruguay, Monaco, the Central African Republic, Iraq and the Republic of Korea.

9. Statements were also made by representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Standing Group of National Committees for UNICEF.

10. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the Independent Human Rights Institutions for Children, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the National Federation of NGOs, ChildHope Asia and Defence for Children International.

Chapter II
Action taken by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

11. At its resumed 2nd meeting, on __ May, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered its draft report (A/S-27/AC.1/L.1 and Add.1).

12. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole adopted its report and decided to recommend to the twenty-seventh special session for adoption a draft resolution (see para. 13).

Chapter III
Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

13. The Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

[To be completed]

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Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Ms. Lidija **Topic** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered the pending paragraphs of the outcome document, A world fit for children, contained in document A/S-27/2/Add.1 (Part II), at its resumed 2nd meeting, on 10 May 2002.

2. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 4 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We reaffirm our obligation to take action to promote and protect the rights of each child, every human being below the age of 18 years, including adolescents. We are determined to respect the dignity and to secure the well-being of all children. We acknowledge that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally embraced human rights treaty in history, and its Optional Protocols contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children. We also recognize the importance of other international instruments relevant for children."

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(b) Paragraph 8 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We recognize that the implementation of the present Declaration and Plan of Action require not only renewed political will, but also the mobilization and allocation of additional resources at both the national and international levels, taking into account the urgency and gravity of the special needs of children."

(c) Paragraph 10 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"The World Declaration and Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children are among the most rigorously monitored and implemented international commitments of the 1990s. Annual reviews were held at the national level and progress reports presented to the General Assembly. A mid-decade review and an extensive global end-decade review were conducted. The latter included high-level regional meetings in Beijing, Berlin, Cairo, Kathmandu and Kingston, which reviewed progress; ensured follow-up to the Summit and other major conferences; promoted renewed commitment to the achievement of the goals of the world summit; and guided actions for the future. Complementing efforts by Governments, a wide range of actors participated in the reviews, including children, young people's organizations, academic institutions, religious groups, civil society organizations, parliamentarians, the media, United Nations agencies, donors and major national and international non-governmental organizations."

(d) The pending text in paragraph 12 was agreed upon as in A/S-27/2/Add.1 (Part II)

(e) Paragraph 28 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We will take measures to manage our natural resources and protect and conserve our environment in a sustainable manner. We will work to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, bearing in mind principles, including the principle that, in view of different contributions to global and environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. We will help to educate all children and adults to respect the natural environment for their health and well-being."

(f) Paragraph 29 was replaced by the following combined text from paragraphs 29 and 30:

"The Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children. We also recognize the importance of other international instruments relevant for children. The general principles of, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for our actions concerning children, including adolescents. We urge all countries to consider, as a matter of priority, signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocols, as well as ILO Conventions 138 and 182. We urge States Parties to fully implement their treaty obligations and to withdraw

reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and to consider reviewing reservations with a view to withdrawing them."

(g) At the end of paragraph 29 bis, the following text was added:

"... and urge States Parties to fully implement them."

(h) Paragraph 30 was deleted

(i) Paragraph 30 bis was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We, the Governments participating in the special session, commit ourselves to implementing the Plan of Action through consideration of such measures as:

"(a) Putting in place, as appropriate, effective national legislation, policies and action plans and allocating resources to fulfil and protect the rights and to secure the well-being of children;

"(b) Establishing or strengthening national bodies, such as, inter alia, independent ombudspersons for children, where appropriate, or other institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child;

"(c) Developing national monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of our actions on children;

"(d) Enhancing widespread awareness and understanding of the rights of the child."

(j) Paragraph 32 bis was replaced by the following paragraph:

"Taking into account the best interests of the child, we commit ourselves to implement the following goals, strategies and actions with appropriate adaptations to the specific situation of each country and the diverse situations and circumstances in different regions and countries throughout the world."

(k) Paragraph 35 (xxviii) was replaced by the following paragraph:

"Develop legislation, policies and programmes, as appropriate, at the national level and enhance international cooperation to prevent, inter alia, the exposure of children to harmful environmental contaminants in the air, water, soil and food."

(l) The chapeau of paragraph 38 was agreed upon as in A/S-27/2/Add.1 (Part II)

(m) Paragraph 39 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"Hundreds of millions of children are suffering and dying from war, violence, exploitation, neglect and all forms of abuse and discrimination. Around the world children live under especially difficult circumstances: permanently disabled or seriously injured by armed conflict; internally displaced or driven from their countries as refugees; suffering from natural and man-made disasters, including such perils as exposure to radiation and dangerous chemicals; as children of migrant workers and

other socially disadvantaged groups; as victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

"Trafficking, smuggling, physical and sexual exploitation and abduction, as well as the economic exploitation of children, even in its worst forms, are daily realities for children in all regions of the world, while domestic violence and sexual violence against women and children remain serious problems.

"In several countries, there have been social and humanitarian impacts from economic sanctions on the civilian population, in particular women and children."

(n) The chapeau of paragraph 41 was agreed upon as in A/S-27/2/Add.1 (Part II)

(o) In paragraph 41, the following paragraph was inserted:

"(xvi bis) Provide protection and assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons, the majority of whom are women and children, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law."

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Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Ms. Lidija **Topic** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered the pending paragraphs of the outcome document, A world fit for children, contained in document A/S-27/2/Add.1 (Part II), at its resumed 2nd meeting, on 10 May 2002.

2. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 46 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"The primary responsibility for the implementation of the Plan of Action and for ensuring an enabling environment for securing the well-being of children, in which the rights of each and every child are promoted and respected, rests with each individual country, recognizing that new and additional resources, both national and international, are required for this purpose."

(b) Paragraph 53 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"Meeting our goals and aspirations for children merits new partnerships with civil society, including with NGOs and the private sector, and innovative arrangements for mobilizing additional resources, both private and public."

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(c) Paragraph 58 (b) was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(b) As the world's lead agency for children, the United Nations Children's Fund is requested to continue to prepare and disseminate, in close collaboration with Governments, relevant funds, programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and all other relevant actors, as appropriate, information on the progress made in the implementation of the present Declaration and Plan of Action. The governing bodies of the relevant specialized agencies are requested to ensure that, within their mandates, the fullest possible support is given by these agencies for the achievement of the goals outlined in the Plan of Action and to keep the General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, fully informed of progress to date and additional action required during the decade ahead using existing reporting frameworks and procedures.

(d) Paragraph 59 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We hereby recommit ourselves to spare no efforts in continuing with the creation of a world fit for children, building on the achievements of the past decade and guided by the principles of first call for children. In solidarity with a broad range of partners, we will lead a global movement for children that creates an unstoppable momentum for change. We make this solemn pledge secure in the knowledge that, in giving high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development, we serve the best interests of all humanity and ensure the well-being of all children in all societies."

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Rapporteur: Ms. Lidija Topic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Addendum

1. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole considered the pending paragraphs of the outcome document, A world fit for children, contained in document A/S-27/2/Add.1 (Part II), at its resumed 2nd meeting, on 10 May 2002.

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 15 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. It is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support. The primary responsibility for the protection, upbringing and development of children rests with the family. All institutions of society should respect children's rights and secure their well-being and render appropriate assistance to parents, families, legal guardians and other caregivers so that children can grow and develop in a safe and stable environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding, bearing in mind that in different cultural, social and political systems, various forms of the family exist."

(b) Paragraph 35 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"To achieve these goals and targets, taking into account the best interests of the child, consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural

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backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, we will carry out the following strategies and actions:"

(c) Paragraph 35 (i) was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(i) Ensure that the reduction of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality is a health sector priority and that women, in particular adolescent expectant mothers, have ready and affordable access to essential obstetric care, well-equipped and adequately staffed maternal health-care services, skilled attendance at delivery, emergency obstetric care, effective referral and transport to higher levels of care when necessary, post-partum care and family planning in order to, inter alia, promote safe motherhood."

(d) Paragraph 35 (xviii) was reordered to follow paragraph 35 (i) and was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(xviii) Provide access to appropriate, user-friendly and high-quality health-care services, education and information to all children."

(e) Paragraph 35 (i) bis was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(i) bis Address effectively, for all individuals of appropriate age, the promotion of their healthy lives, including their reproductive and sexual health, consistent with the commitments and outcomes of recent United Nations conferences and summits, including the World Summit for Children, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women, their five-year reviews and their reports."

(f) Paragraphs 35 (ii) bis, 35 (iii), 35 (xix), 35 (xxi), 35 (xxiii) and 38 (x) were deleted

(g) Paragraph 38 (xi) was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(xi) Design, where appropriate, and implement programmes that enable pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers to continue and to complete their education."

(h) Paragraph 38 (xii) was deleted

(i) Paragraph 40 (b) was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(b) Protect children from the impact of armed conflict and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights law."

(j) Paragraph 41 (viii) was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(viii) Protect children from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Call upon the Governments of all States, in particular States in which the death penalty has not been abolished, to comply with the obligations they have assumed under relevant provisions of international human rights instruments, including, in particular, articles 37 and 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and articles 6 and 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

(k) Paragraphs 41 (xxvi) ter and 41 (xxvii) were deleted

(l) Above paragraph 41 (xxxi), the title "Elimination of child labour", was replaced by the title "Combating child labour"

(m) Paragraph 41 (xxxiii) bis was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(xxxiii) bis In this context, protect children from all forms of economic exploitation by mobilizing national partnerships and international cooperation and improve the conditions of children through, inter alia, providing working children with free basic education, and with vocational training and integration into the education system in every way possible, and encourage support for social and economic policies aimed at poverty eradication and at providing families, particularly women, with employment and income generating opportunities."

(n) Paragraphs 41 (xxxiv), 41 (xxxvi) and 41 (xxxvii) were deleted

(o) Paragraph 41 (xxxviii) was replaced by the following paragraph:

"(xxxviii) Strengthen the collection and analysis of data on child labour."

(p) Paragraph 41 (xxxix) was deleted

(q) Above paragraph 41 (xli), the title "Elimination of sexual exploitation of children" was replaced by the title "Elimination of trafficking and sexual exploitation of children"

(r) Above paragraph 56, the title "Follow-up actions and monitoring" was replaced by the title "Follow-up actions and assessment"

(s) Paragraph 56 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"To facilitate the implementation of actions committed to in this document, we will develop or strengthen as a matter of urgency, if possible by the end of 2003, national and, where appropriate, regional action plans with a set of specific time-bound and measurable goals and targets based on this Plan of Action, taking into account the best interests of the child, consistent with national laws, religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

"We will therefore strengthen our national planning and ensure necessary coordination, implementation and resources. We will integrate the goals of this Plan of Action into our national government policies as well as national and subnational development programmes, poverty eradication strategies, multisectoral approaches and other relevant development plans, in cooperation with relevant civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations working for and with children, as well as children, in accordance with their age and maturity, and their families."

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Draft resolution submitted by the Chairperson

The Ad Hoc Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

A world fit for children

The General Assembly

Adopts the document entitled "A world fit for children" annexed to the present resolution.

Annex

A world fit for children

[For the text of the annex, see A/S-27/2/Add.1 (Part II) and Corr.1 and A/S-27/AC.1/L.1/Add.1 (to be issued).]

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